

Eagle River Secondary

Sicamous, BC

Small Secondary School Think Tank

May, 2021





ERS

Demographics

- Grades 7-12
- 146 students
- 7/8s run as a cohort
- 9-12s run as a cohort for some classes

A Place of Belonging

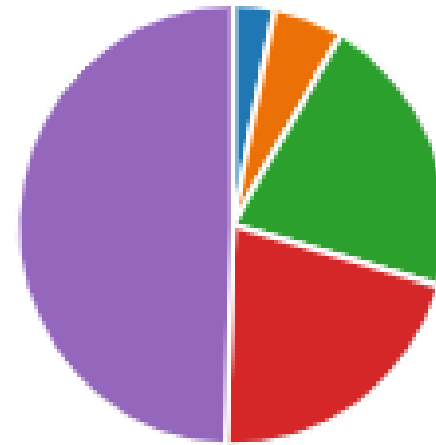


- Feed them and they will come??
- Breakfast program every morning – open to everyone
- Free lunch twice a week
 - Food class with Rotary grant
 - PAC lunch
- School wide holiday feast on the last day before winter break

4. At ERS, how many adults do you feel CARE about you (ie. teachers, principal, CEAs, counselors, custodians, secretaries...)?

More Details

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| ● None | 3 |
| ● 1 adult | 5 |
| ● 2 adults | 20 |
| ● 3 adults | 20 |
| ● 4 adults or more | 47 |

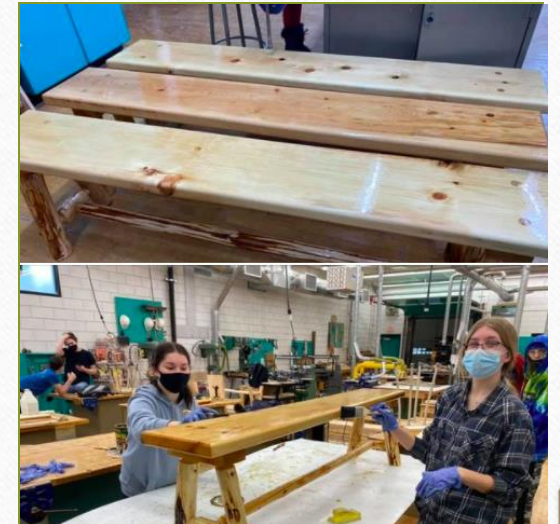


71% of students said that they feel that 3 or more adults care about them



Authentic Tasks

- Horticulture class grew food that was used in the foods program for our school lunches
- Textiles class sewed new aprons for the foods class
- Wood shop class building new seating for our cafeteria
- World Religions class baking Jewish treats



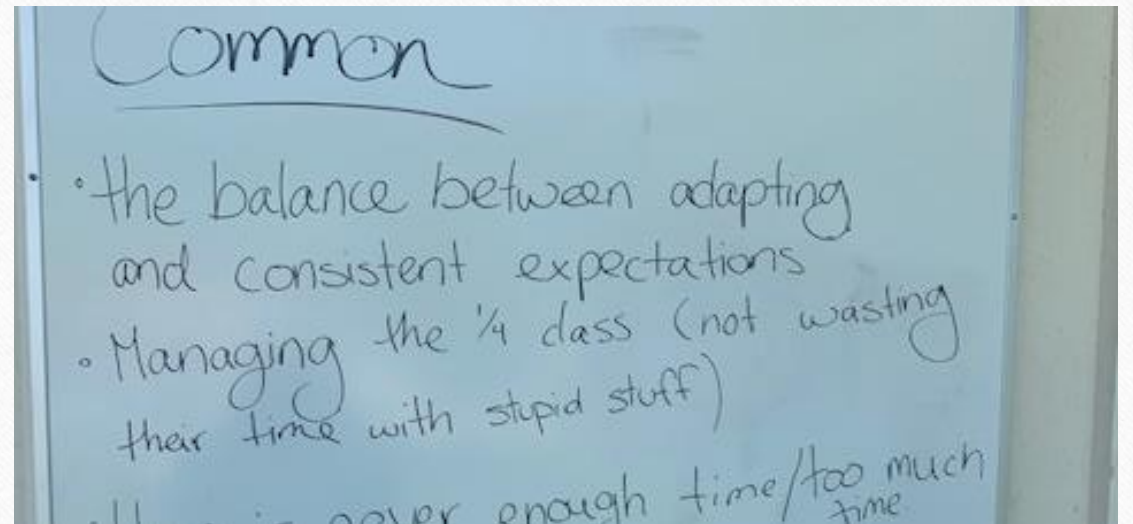
Community Connections

- Social media to keep community informed
- Work experience / volunteer connections
- Local community members in the classrooms sharing their expertise



Cool Happenings

- White boards installed outside in courtyard
- Used by both students and staff



Cool Happenings

Day 1 of Phone Detox....30% of the student body is participating!
Just a reminder to students - Cody will be coming to YOU in your first block to check in your phones. Also, you have all been added to a TEAMS group - your first survey is available on Wednesday!
Please complete it by Thursday.





Cool Happenings

- Wellness Centre staffed through external grants
- Medical doctor twice a month
- Options for Sexual Health nurse twice a month

Creative Course Structures?

- Senior Sciences
 - Makes use of our in-district distance learning materials for “course work”
 - Teachers supports, does labs with small groups while other students are working
- Applied Skills (9-12)
 - Transitions to different modules depending on teacher skill set and student interest (wood shop, textiles, metal shop)
- Social Studies Exploration
 - Runs senior social studies together in one class
 - Students work on inquiry units

Student Focus Groups (Nov 2020)

| QUESTIONS | Grade 7 | Grade 8 | Grade 9 | Grade 10 | Grade 11/12 |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| What do you like about ERS? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers (everyone is nice and they make it fun) – staff gets involved Cafeteria Free food at lunch We feel welcome here Lots of activities (like Spirit Week) We don't really mix with the Grade 9-12s...we do our own thing Lockers are great Teachers are giving us lots of 'learning' but it doesn't really feel like it – time goes by really fast | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers (understanding, fun) – joke around – make classes interesting Free food Activities – class trips, school events, field trips Fun They physical building (ie. the classrooms, gym...) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not scary place be (we are like one big messed up family) Staff/student community – connections with students and trust with teachers Lots of food Respect the fact that the staff is willing to make changes and understand our feelings The size of the school – it is not overly large – we don't get lost in the hallways | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free food Allowed to go off school property at lunch time | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "I say that I actually hate it here, but I actually don't" Some teachers Fun projects Energy – feels like everyone is in a good mood Intimate – we all know each other Pretty chill We get lots of 1-1 support Staff knows the kids (in bigger schools teachers don't know kids names) Good class selection "a totally different experience than my old school" Very accepting school |
| As a school, what do we need to improve? Magic Wand.... | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would like more access to the gym if possible – could we put a divider down the middle of gym Let us leave the school property at lunch We like how it is Like it better here that at home because we have been in quarantine for 7 months Could make school more challenging | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More field trips – could be a small group of kids or all of the 9-12s Gym access – more <u>lunch time</u> activities – we need more access to the gym – what if Friday gym access rotated based on the block order? Could the 7/8s have access to the cafeteria on Fridays We would like more freedom to talk in the library | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bullying issue – confused why some kids treat me differently....recommended that adults need to be aware of situations More kids More course options (ie. French) More clubs and fun stuff What if there was \$ that kids could apply for create a club at school? Teacher sponsorship would be needed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More activities to take stress off the day/hard to deal with COVID stuff Gymnastics in gym class More options in the gym (ie. weight room use) Better and more robotics equipment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More sports – open gym in the morning More colour in the hallways/cafeteria More activities with cohorts More benches outside/umbrellas for tables More physical/hands on stuff; find ways to incorporate hands on activities in to academics |
| What prevents you from being successful? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It would be nice if we could talk and <u>help out</u> friends in a class – ie. help them out when they have a question Staying up late upsets my learning (later start is good) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stress – anxiety – feeling overwhelmed with the amount of work in some classes Not feeling overly comfortable with the older grades...would like more access to counsellors...."Talia use to give us cookies" Need more opportunities to decompress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laziness School needs to be more interesting/exciting (even a little bit more) Limits (when I can't go ahead in a class) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When a teacher talks to much and doesn't give enough time complete work in class – it would be better if they talked less Bright lights...would prefer to have lamps in the classroom | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laziness Procrastination No motivation to do work Loud kids in class TOCs Myself – stress, anxiety, inability to balance time |

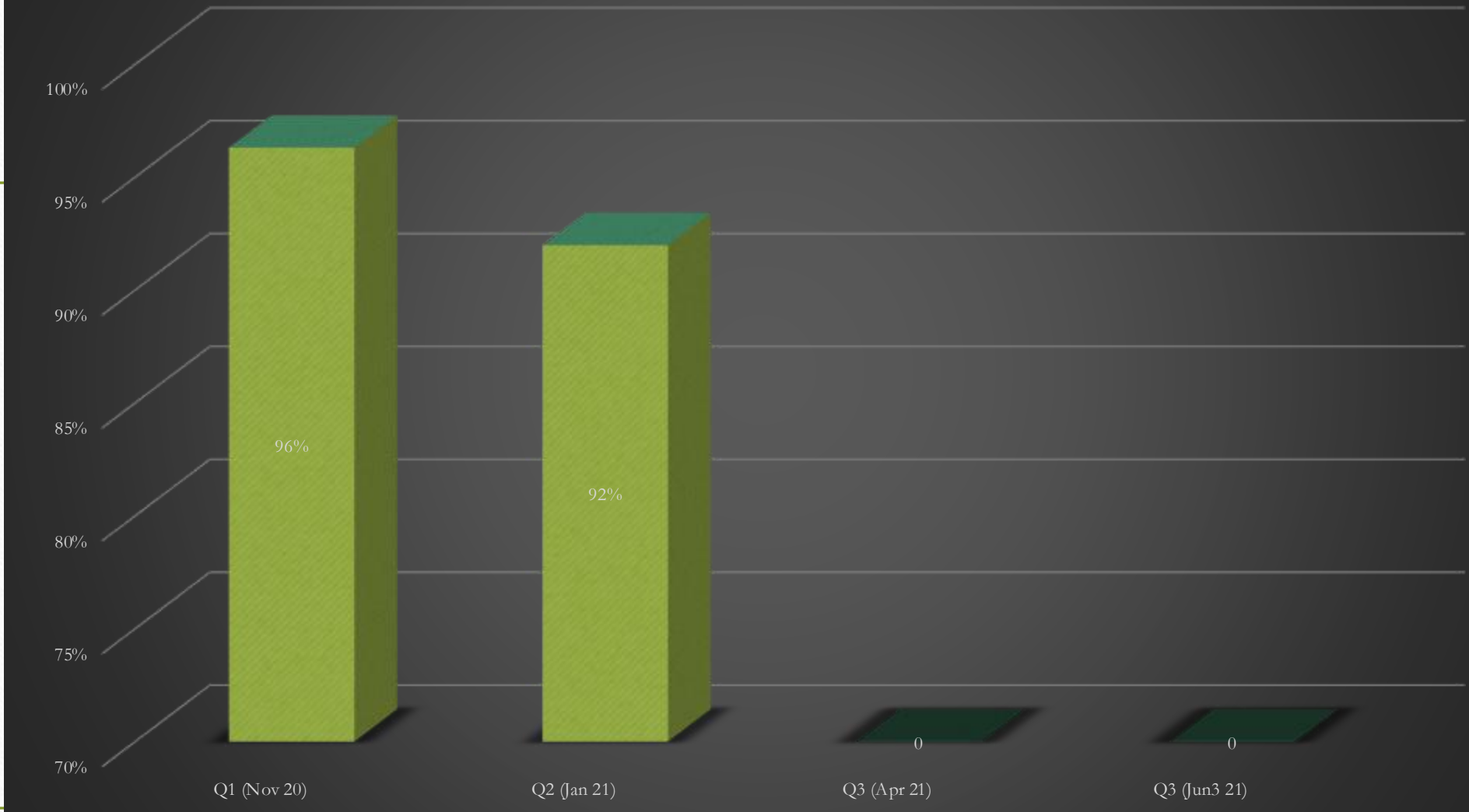
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|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| <p>Staff feels that it is important for students to attend regularly. What can we do to encourage regular attendance at school?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important – good interactions with teachers make us want to be here. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance = good grades • Kids may miss school and then not come back right away because they are worried they missed too much school....important for kids to get missing work but also feel welcome when coming back. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make school a more fun place to be – “I come here because we are a family” • Give kids a reason to be here • Open gym in the mornings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interesting classes – lead to us being able to focus • Fun teachers – make class enjoyable – talk to us like we are people. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘The only way to get kids here is when they want to be here’ • Focus on graduation is important • Engaging classrooms • Make school fun for all • Not every kid is sporty so we need more than gym time • We have bad days, and at times we feel that that staff may not care • Don't hound kids when they are here if we want them here – if kid have bad attendance encourage them when they are here not just reminding them about not being here. |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|

**ATTENDANCE
MATTERS.
ALL DAY, EVERY DAY**

Anecdotal Data: What do you LIKE the BEST about ERS?

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| The intimate and supportive community | Students are given every opportunity to succeed. | its small and free food |
| how many things are available to students like food and the health center | | |
| Family oriented | we are kind of like a dysfunctional family in some ways | |
| My child is happy, and succeeding going there | | Community and Staff |
| Going above and beyond to ensure students complete their requirements to graduate. Ensuring that student's needs are met on a personal level. Understanding that each student comes from different background and therefore require different support to meet their goals. | | Small community feel |
| My son loves all staff and is very comfortable and excited to be there. | | Inclusive, welcoming home-like atmosphere and culture. Teachers and administration and office staff all constantly building positive and involved interactions and guidance. |
| I like the fact that there is lots of opportunities to try new things | | You feel like you are part of a family, the ERS family. |

Course Completion Data (% of Courses Complete)

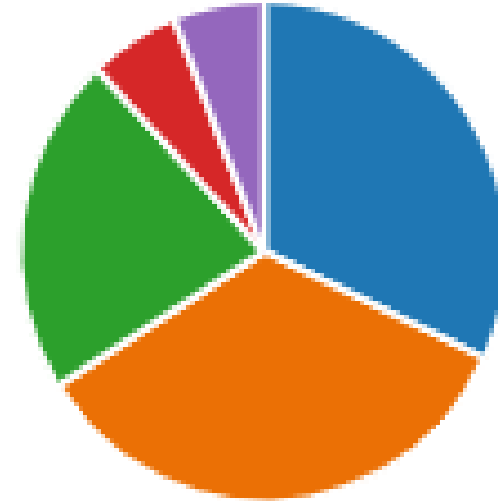


Student Perspective

6. When comparing the Semester and the 1/4 system, what do you prefer?

More Details

- strongly prefer the 1/4 system 16
- kind of prefer the 1/4 system 17
- have no preference either way 11
- kind of prefer Semester 3
- strongly prefer Semester 3



Staff perspective

6. When comparing teaching/supporting students in the the Semester and the 1/4 system, what would you prefer....

More Details

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| ● strongly prefer the 1/4 system | 0 |
| ● kind of prefer the 1/4 system | 7 |
| ● have no preference either way | 2 |
| ● kind of prefer Semester | 2 |
| ● strongly prefer Semester | 1 |



Next Year's Timetable - Based on Feedback from Staff and Students

| September to January | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| A – Math 9 | A – Math 9 |
| B – Science 9 | B – Science 9 |
| | |
| C – Wood 9 (1/4 class) | D – PE 9 (1/4 class) |

- *A/B would rotate throughout the week (but always be side by side)
- *longer blocks (ie. C and D) would be geared towards courses that are a fit for extra time where possible
- *ideally, staff preps would be in one of the semester blocks (though, this can't drive the timetable build)

Challenges

- We've been on a constantly changing timetable
- Draw of a bigger school, or specialized programs at other schools
- Uneven numbers in grades (ie 31 grade 9s) make for tricky timetabling

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